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The next step is easy, and he takes it. He dislikes to think of the Americas passing through any such "reconstruction" experience as Europe has had since 1914. Therefore he now pleads for resort to reason, not to force, to trained investigators of facts and not to rhetorical partisans and beaters of the drums of war. Having created his judicial and arbitral tribunal, he wants it to hold its sessions on soil conquered and held by Latins. If there is to be a Pan-America capital, he wants it to be nearer the regions where Latins dominate.

This is a straw that it will be well to watch float down the stream of time. Races that have produced a Drago of the Argentine and a Barbosa of Brazil need not dread experimenting with their own system of league formation for juridical ends.

At a time when neither Europe nor the United States seem to have much vital faith in an international court competent to deal with international disputes, and thus to avoid wars, it is refreshing to see Latin-America considering what its policy is to be.

## FRANCE

**A**FTER the experiences following August 1, 1914, it is natural to expect evidence of nervousness in France. We have no doubt that the speech by the former Premier, Jean Louis Barthou, March 26, delivered in the Chamber of Deputies during a discussion of French foreign policy, expressed views widely current not only in France, but in England also. It is probably true that French merchants are interested in the cotton of Adana and in the oil of Mosul, in consequence of which there is a real bone of contention between France and England, and that is Syria. It is a familiar fact that, while France breasted Germany during those distressful years, England was overthrowing the Turks in Asia Minor and laying the ground for claims to the vast reservoirs of wealth in that section of the world. This is a fact to be considered in any attempt to analyze the present strained relations between France and England. But let it not be overlooked that France has suffered; still suffers. It may be true, as the Deputy Minister of Public Works, M. Le Trocquer, says, that Great Britain has promised France, out of the English stock of coal available for disposal, 60 per cent, instead of the 20 previously promised, and that at a special price; but the fact remains that the treaty guaranteeing English and American protection for France along the east is a dead letter. While England has obtained security by the destruction of the German fleet, it is also a fact that, as M. Barthou said, "France stands alone." This ought not to be so. We are convinced that France is not a militaristic nation, and that she desires no conquests;

but we are also clearly convinced that France feels the justice of her demand that she should be reimbursed for the losses which have come to her as a result of the ruthless attack across her industrial areas. France is entitled to reparation. We all said this during the war. It was provided for in the treaty ending the war. We should not forget it now. Our view is that France should obtain these reparations in discussion with the Allies if possible, and that she will receive them that way; but, failing this now, we find it difficult to criticise her for moving her troops across the Rhine. It is wholly unjust that England should be credited with all the generosity toward Germany, and that France should be charged with all the sternness toward that arch aggressor. That is not fair to France. France has grievances well known and justified. The French are intelligent, free of sentimentalism, interested in realities, and swift to execute ideas. It is natural, after the experiences of this war, after the failure of Germany to fulfill her engagements, and in the light of the history of a thousand years, that France should desire to know where she stands and that there should be a Nationalist Party favoring military occupation of the Ruhr basin. In the absence of any agreed evidence of support from the outside, it is easy to understand why France should take upon herself the enforcement of the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. We confess to a feeling of pride and sympathy with the former Premier when he said: "Great Britain knows how to defend her interests. France is still strong enough to defend herself with her allies if they agree and without them if they withdraw." That utterance was dignified, justified, French. It is said that the Frenchman is conceited only as regards France. There is nothing, certainly, of the American brag and bunkum in him. The utterance of M. Barthou was not sharp or stridulous. It was out of the Frenchman in him. The one thing the French may be expected to do is to stand by *La Patrie*. The five years of war will reach their climax of infamy if, deprived of protection from further attacks on her east, France, *la duce France*, is left alone to obtain those reparations agreed to by all the belligerents in the Treaty of Versailles.

## SYRIA'S CLAIM

**O**NE of the most dramatic, and for a time disturbing, incidents of the month has been the assertion by Prince Feisul of autonomy of an Arabian State in Syria, his elevation to the headship of the same, and his defiance of Great Britain and France in their determination to partition territory nominally Turkish but which the Arabs now claim must be ruled by Arabs.

Proceeding to Paris following his assertion of his